

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as indicated.

***Claim 2 (amended)***

The method of claim 1 wherein said driveline system is on a vehicle having vehicle brakes and said idle drive torque value is selected to be sufficient to move the vehicle on level ground if the vehicle brakes are not applied, but not sufficient to move the vehicle on level ground if the vehicle brakes are applied.

***Claim 3 (amended)***

The method of claim 1 wherein said transmission has a rated input torque and said idle drive torque value is less than ten percent (10%) of the rated input torque of the transmission.

Claim 4, line 2, after "torque" please insert ---value---.

***Claim 11 (amended)***

The method of claim 1 wherein said system controller is microprocessor-based and said engine controller communicates with an electronic data link [conforming to the protocols of one of SAE J1922, SAE J1939 and/or ISO 11898].

***Claim 13 (amended)***

The method of claim 1 wherein said second reference value equals about 3 MPH [(about 5 KPH)].

Claim 15, line 3, after "equal to" please insert ---said---.

Claim 15, line 4, after "and" please insert ---said---.

***Claim 16 (amended)***

A method for controlling a vehicle master friction clutch (14) drivingly connecting a fuel-controlled engine (12) to a transmission input shaft (20) on a vehicle having vehicle brakes, said method comprising:

sensing (i) operation of an operator throttle position device (33) and (ii) vehicle speed (OS);

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selecting an idle drive torque value ( $T_{ID}$ ) such that the amount of torque applied to the transmission input shaft is sufficient to launch the vehicle if the transmission is in low gear and the vehicle brakes are not applied but is insufficient to launch the vehicle if the vehicle brakes are fully applied; and

if the operator throttle position is less than a throttle reference value and vehicle speed is less than a speed reference value, causing the vehicle master friction clutch to be engaged to a torque transfer capacity substantially equal to said idle drive torque value.

**Claim <sup>17</sup>~~18~~ (amended)**

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The system of claim <sup>16</sup>~~17~~ wherein said driveline system is on a vehicle having vehicle brakes and said idle drive torque value is selected to be sufficient to move the vehicle on level ground if the vehicle brakes are not applied, but not sufficient to move the vehicle on level ground if the vehicle brakes are applied.

**Claim <sup>18</sup>~~19~~ (amended)**

The system of claim <sup>16</sup>~~17~~ wherein said transmission has a rated input torque and said idle drive torque value is less than ten percent (10%) of the rated input torque of the transmission.

Claim 20, line 2, after "torque" please insert ~~insert~~ ---value---.

**Claim <sup>23</sup>~~24~~ (amended)**

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The system of claim <sup>16</sup>~~17~~ wherein said system controller is microprocessor-based and said engine controller communicates with an electronic data link [conforming to the protocols of one of SAE J1922, SAE J1939 or ISO 11898].